Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Holy Texts (honors)**

***Excerpts from Holy Texts of Era 1 Belief Systems***

Directions: Read each excerpt and identify parts of the excerpts that 1) call upon a higher power (i.e. God), 2) use poetic language, 3) mention “high-minded” themes, and 4) use repetition

***Excerpt A:***

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| **Excerpt from**  **Holy Text** | **Calls upon Higher Power (i.e. God)** | **Uses Poetic**  **Language** | **Mentions “High-minded” Themes** | **Uses**  **Repetition** |
| A.)  In this world may obedience triumph over disobedience,  May peace triumph over discord,  May generosity triumph over niggardliness,  May love triumph over contempt,  May the true-spoken word triumph over the false-spoken word,  May truth triumph over falsehood.  -Yasna 60.5  When I conceived of Thee, O Mazda,  As the very First and the Last  As the Most Adorable One,  As the Father of Good Thought,  As the Creators of the Eternal Law of Truth and Right,  As the Lord Judge of our actions in Life,  Then I made a place for Thee in my eyes.  -Yasna 31.8 |  |  |  |  |

***Excerpt B:***

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| **Excerpt from**  **Holy Text** | **Calls upon Higher Power** | **Poetic**  **Language** | **“Lofty” Themes** | **Repetition** |
| B)  May my speech be one with my mind, and may my mind be one with my speech.  O thou self-luminous Brahman, remove the veil of ignorance from before me, that I may behold thy light.  Do thou reveal to me the spirit of the scriptures.  May the truth of the scriptures be ever present to me.  May I seek day and night to realize what I learn from the sages.  May I speak the truth of Brahman.  May I speak the truth.  May it protect me.  May it protect my teacher.  Om… Peace-peace-peace.  -Rig Veda |  |  |  |  |

***Excerpt C:***

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| **Excerpt from**  **Holy Text** | **Calls upon Higher Power** | **Poetic**  **Language** | **“Lofty” Themes** | **Repetition** |
| C.)  Whatever living beings there be: feeble or strong,  Tall, stout or medium, short, small or large, without exception; seen or unseen, those dwelling far or near, those who are born or those who are to be born, may all beings be happy!  Let none deceive another, not despise any person whatsoever in any place. Let him not wish any harm to another out of anger or ill-will.  Just as a mother would protect her only child at the risk of her own life, even so, let him cultivate a boundless heart toward all beings.  Let his thoughts of boundless love pervade the whole world: above, below and across without any obstruction, without any hatred, without any enmity.  Whether he stands, walks, sits or lies down, as long as he is awake, he should develop this mindfulness. This they say is the noblest living here.  Not falling into wrong views, being virtuous and endowed with insight, by discarding attachment to sense desires, never again is he reborn.  -*Metta Sutta*, in the *Sutta-Nipata* |  |  |  |  |

***Excerpt D:***

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| **Excerpt from**  **Holy Text** | **Calls upon Higher Power** | **Poetic**  **Language** | **“Lofty” Themes** | **Repetition** |
| D.)  See, all things howsoever they flourish  Return to the root from which they grew.  This return to the root is called Quietness;  Quietness is called submission to Fate;  What has submitted to Fate has become part of the always-so.  To know the always-so is to be Illumined;  Not to know it, means to go blindly to disaster.  -Lao Tzu, *Tao Te Ching,* Chapter 16  How did the great rivers and seas get their kingship over the hundred lesser streams?  Through the merit of being lower than they; that was how they got their kingship.  Therefore the Sage  In order to be above the people  Must speak as though he were lower than the people.  In order to guide them  He must put himself behind them.  Only thus can the Sage be on top and the people not be crushed by his weight.  Only thus can he guide, and the people not be led into harm.  Indeed in this way everything under heaven will be glad to be pushed by him and will not find his guidance irksome.  This he does by not striving; and because he does not strive, none can contend with him.  -Lao Tzu, *Tao Te Ching,* Chapter 66 |  |  |  |  |

***Excerpt E:***

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| **Excerpt from**  **Holy Text** | **Calls upon Higher Power** | **Poetic**  **Language** | **“Lofty” Themes** | **Repetition** |
| E.)  The Master said: “Shen! My teaching contains one all-pervading principle.”  “Yes,” replied Tseng Tzu.  When the Master had left the room the disciples asked, “What did he mean?” Tsend Tzu replied, “Our Master’s teaching is simply this: Conscientiousness to self and consideration for others.”  -*The Analects of Confucius*, IV. 15  Love of Goodness without love of learning degenerates into silliness. Love of wisdom without love of learning degenerates into utter lack of principles. Love of keeping promises without love of learning degenerates into villainy. Love of uprightness without love of learning degenerates into harshness. Love of courage without love of learning degenerates into turbulence. Love of courage without love of learning degenerates into mere recklessness.  -*The Analects of Confucius*, XVII. 8 |  |  |  |  |

***Excerpt F:***

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| **Excerpt from**  **Holy Text** | **Calls upon Higher Power** | **Poetic**  **Language** | **“Lofty” Themes** | **Repetition** |
| F.)  Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. Take to heart these instructions with which I charge you this day. Impress them upon your children. Recite them when you stay at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you get up. Bind them as a sign on your hand and let them serve as a symbol on your forehead; inscribe them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.  -Deuteronomy 6:4-9  God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. They shall rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the cattle, the whole earth, and all the creeping things that creep on earth.” And God created man in His image, in the image of God He created hum; male and female He created them. God blessed them and God said to them, “be fertile and increase, fill the earth and master it; and rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, an all the living things that creep.”  -Genesis 1:27-28 |  |  |  |  |

***Excerpt G:***

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| **Excerpt from**  **Holy Text** | **Calls upon Higher Power** | **Poetic**  **Language** | **“Lofty” Themes** | **Repetition** |
| G.)  Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.  Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.  Give us this day our daily bread.  And forgive us our dets, as we forgive our debtors.  And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:  For this in the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. A’-men.  -Matthew 6:9-13 |  |  |  |  |

***Excerpt H:***

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| **Excerpt from**  **Holy Text** | **Calls upon Higher Power** | **Poetic**  **Language** | **“Lofty” Themes** | **Repetition** |
| H.)  Al-Faithah  In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful  Praise be to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds,  The Compassionate, the Merciful,  Master of the Day of Judgment,  Only You do we worship, and only You do we implore for help.  Lead us to the right path,  The path of those You have favoured  Not those who have incurred Your wrath or have gone astray.  -Qur’an 1:1-7  Righteousness is not to turn your faces towards the East and the West; the righteous is he who believes in Allah, the Last Day, the angles, the Book and the Prophets; who gives of his money, in spite of loving it, to the near of kin, the orphans, the needy, the wayfarers and the beggars, and for the freeing of slaves; who performs the prayers and pays the alms-tax. Such are also those who keep their pledges once they have made them, and endure patiently privation, affliction and in times of fighting. Those are the truthful and the God-fearing.  -Qur’an 2:177 |  |  |  |  |